HF Happenings

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.

Hammies Sprint 2016

Noel, ZR6DX, the Chairman of the ZS6ZU Hammies ARC says, "The first of many Hammies Sprints took place on Sunday 12 June 2016. This sprint was formulated to get the youth involved in contesting. What was amazing is we had ten Class B licensed radio amateurs, operating the contest. If you look at the results, four of these youngsters were in the top ten. A Class A licensed operator, hosted every one of these Hammies as most of the youngsters do not have access to their own HF station. These operators opened up their homes and gave up time to mentor the youth in the art of contesting. I personally applaud those who opened their homes for these youngsters. This is what Ham spirit is all about!

I received 32 logs and again, I must say the support has been fantastic.

Just a few stats pertaining to all the logs I received:

A total of 151 different call signs were recorded in the logs received

Of these 151 call signs, 69 were single exclusive call signs, i.e. only appeared in one log of the 32 logs received.

Johan, ZS2JV, made contact with 19 of the 32 logs entered. The next best was 17 which was recorded by Luke, ZU6SKY

A few logs had duplicate contacts.

In some logs, call signs were incorrectly recorded.

A few lessons to be learnt:

Delete all duplicates, before entering your log.

Make sure you have recorded the time, call sign and exchange correctly."

The full overall results are as follows:
1st Massimo Rossi, ZS5MAX, 136 points
2nd Johan van Vuuren, ZS2JV 106 points
3rd Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 99 points
4th Nathan Busse, ZU6X, 95 points
5th Justin Furner, ZS5KT, 90 points
6th Port Elizabeth ARC, ZS2PE, 82 points
7th East Rand Radio Club, ZS6ERB, 75 points
8th Rhys Aldhouse, ZU6RAP, 74 points
9th Robert van der Meulen, ZU6BOB, 71 points
10th Luke Haddow, ZU6SKY, 69 points
11th Garth Wheeler, ZS5GMW, 61 points
12th Heather Holland, ZS5YH, 58 points
13th Hammies ARC PE, ZS2ZU, 50 points
14th Hammies ARC Gauteng, ZS6ZU, 49 points
15th Johannes van Zijl, ZS4DZ, 46 points

16th Romeo Nardini, ZS6ARQ, 45 points
17th Koos Fick, ZR6KF, 44 points
18th Logan Costa, ZU6FOX, 39 points
19th Cobus Rabe, ZS1DJR, and Daniel Rabe, ZS1DY, 36 points each
21st Mike Stokes, ZS6AI, 34 points
22nd Roy Walsh, ZS3RW, 29 points
23rd Rhys Hooper, ZU6RAT, 27 points
24th Glen Bailey, ZU6G, 25 points
25th Angelo Tarasconi, ZU6AMT, 24 points
26th Robert Bryington, ZS6DEZ, 22 points
27th Wally Moll, ZS6BCI, 19 points
28th Angus Humphries, ZS6GOO, 19 points
29th Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, 15 points
30th Stephen van Jaarsveldt, ZS6SVJ, 12 points
31st Dunne' Duveen, ZU6DV, and Ullrich Duveen, ZU6U, 10 points each

Class-B operators
1st Nathan Busse, ZU6X, 95 points
2nd Rhys Aldhouse, ZU6RAP, 74 points
3rd Robert van der Meulen, ZU6BOB, 71 points
4th Luke Haddow, ZU6SKY, 69 points
5th Logan Costa, ZU6FOX, 39 points
6th Rhys Hooper, ZU6RAT, 27 points
7th Glen Bailey, ZU6G, 25 points
8th Angelo Tarasconi, ZU6AMT, 24 points
9th Dunne' Duveen, ZU6DV, and Ullrich Duveen, ZU6U, 10 points each

June

30 - End of SARL Membership year; ZS4BS' last working day

July

1 – Start of SARL Membership year; Bloemfontein ARC 36th birthday
1 to 10 – Knysna Oyster Festival
3 - ZS5 Sprint
6 - Eid-UL-Fitr
8 to 10 – Dullstroom Winter Festival
9 and 10 - IARU HF Championships
10 - SARL Youth Net
14 to 17 – Coffee and Chocolate Expo, Monte Casino
16 - Winter QRP Sprint
16 and 17 – Franschhoek Bastille Festival
16 to 23 - Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp in Austria
18 - Schools open
24 - ZS2 Sprint
25 - Closing date for articles for the August Radio ZS
30 – Special General Meeting at the NARC
30 – SA Fly-fishing and Flyting Expo, Somerset West
30 and 31 - Islands on the Air Contest

Certificates will be posted to the first three places, for both Class –A and Class-B operators.

World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio

The WWFF programme wants to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna. In this spirit, amateur radio operators set up, operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas – generating attention for these areas whilst giving the amateur radio community an interesting activity to contact. WWFF is an international and non-commercial program run by the co-ordinators of a large number of national Flora and Fauna programmes.

Make nature your shack!

Dennis, ZS4BS, will activate Mokala National Park (ZSFF-0028) in the Northern Cape from Monday 4 to Thursday morning 7 July. Mokala lays in KG20 for those looking for Grid Squares for the WAGS Award. Activity will be phone and RTTY on HF 'holiday style'

Synchronous or Asynchronous?

Radio amateur Rud Merriam, K5RUD, writes on Hackaday about synchronous and asynchronous communications. You may have heard of both of these but do you really know the differences between the two?

Serial communication was used long before computers existed. A predecessor is the telegraph system using Morse Code, one of the first digital modes of communication. Another predecessor is the teletype, which set standards that are still used today in your Arduino or Raspberry Pi.

The article at http://hackaday.com/2016/06/28/serially-are-you-syncing-or-asyncing/

Rud Merriam, K5RUD, has also written about the Public Service aspect of Amateur Radio http://hackaday.com/2016/01/15/ham-radio-public-service-activities-rewarding-and-useful/

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Seychelles, S7. A team consisting of Paul, A65DR, Joel, A65BX, Martin, A65DC, Gerald, A65CB, Obaid, A61DJ, and Keli, TF8KY are going to operate from Mahe Island (AF-024) between 1 and 10 July. They will be active as S79V on 160 to 10 m on SSB, CW and PSK. QSL via IZ8CLM, ClubLog, LoTW, eQSL. http://www.a6dx.com/

Pelagie Islands, IG9. Marco, IZ3GNG, will be holidaying on Lampedusa (AF-019) between 3 and 10 July. He will be active as IZ3GNG/IG9, also during the IARU HF contest. QSOs to be confirmed automagically via the bureau.

Zanzibar Island, 5H. Alexey, UT5UY, and a team of operators are planning to activate Zanzibar Island (AF-032), Tanzania, as 5H1XX. Activity will be on various HF bands. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

Sao Tome and Principe, S9. Ruediger, DK8YY, Peter, DL1RPL, and other German operators will be active as S9YY from Sao Tome and Principe between 8 to 23 October. The HF team will be active on 160 to 10 metres, while Peter, DL1RPL, will operate on 144 and 432 MHz EME (see Peter's Web page at http://www.dl1rpl.de). Look for more details to be forthcoming.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 27 June to 4 July 2016

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 June
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 1 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 30 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 July 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

RAC Canada Day Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 July
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op All Band CW; Single Op All Band Phone; Single Op QRP; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Single Band QRP; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province/territory; non-VE: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with non-VE stations; 10 points per QSO with VE stations; 20 points per QSO with RAC stations
Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2016
E-mail logs to: canadaday@rac.ca
Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada
Find rules at: http://wp.rac.ca/canada-day-contest-rules/

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 1 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 July
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint
00:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: QRP; QRO; Club
Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member
Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 August 2016
E-mail logs to: n2ed@fistsna.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints

DL-DX RTTY Contest
11:00 UTC 2 July to 10:59 UTC 3 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Multi-Band Single Radio; Single Op Multi-Band 6 Hrs Single Radio; Single Op Multi-Band Dipole Single Radio; Single Op Multi-Band Dipole 6 Hrs Single Radio; Single Op Multi-Band; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi
Exchange: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with same country; 10 points per QSO with different country same continent; 15 points per QSO with different continent; EU Stations: Add 3 QSO points for QSO with DL station; non-EU Stations: Add 5 QSO points for QSO with DL station
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each VK, VE, JA and W call area once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 10 July 2016
E-mail logs to: logs@drcg.de

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.drcg.de/dldxrtty/dl-dx-rtty-english.html

Marconi Memorial HF Contest
14:00 UTC 2 July to 14:00 UTC 3 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 3 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each CQ WW country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14:00 UTC 17 July 2016
E-mail logs to: contest.marconi@arifano.it
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.html

Original QRP Contest
15:00 UTC 2 July to 15:00 UTC 3 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op – VLP, QRP or MP – hand-made or open
Max operating hours: 15 hours
Max power: VLP: 1 W; QRP: 5 W; MP: 20 W
Exchange: RST, serial no, "/" and power category
QSO Points: QSO with station who submits log: 4 points; QSO with station that does not submit log: 1 point; 15% bonus for use of TR/TRX assembled from kit; 30% bonus for use of unique handmade TR/TRX
Multipliers: DXCC Countries: 2 mult points if station submits log, 1 mult point if no log
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mult points
Submit logs by: 31 July 2016
E-mail logs to: oqrpc@qrpcc.de

Mail logs to: Lutz Gutheil, DL1RNN, Berg-strasse 17, D-38446 Wolfsburg, Germany
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html

PODXS 070 Club 40 m Firecracker Sprint
20:00 UTC 2 July to 20:00 UTC 3 July
Mode: PSK31
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: QRP; Low Power; Medium Power
Max operating hours: 6
Max power: Medium Power: 50 watts; Low Power: 20 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point/QSO
Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 10 July 2016
Upload log at: http://hamclubs.info/scorer
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/40 m-firecracker-sprint

Venezuelan Independence Day Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 3 July
Mode: CW, SSB, PSK
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB, PSK or mixed; Single Op Single Band - CW, SSB, PSK or mixed; Multi-Single; SWL
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 3 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each Venezuelan call area and each DXCC country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2016
E-mail logs to: contestyv@cantv.net
Mail logs to: Radio Club Venezolano, Concurso Independencia de Venezuela, PO Box 20285, Caracas 1020-A, Venezuela

Find rules at:
http://yv5rcv.org/reglasindep.aspx

DARC 10-Metre Digital Contest
11:00 UTC-17:00 UTC 3 July
Mode: RTTY, Amtor, Clover, PSK31, Pactor
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Single Op; SWL
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each WAE/DCXX area; Each W/VE call area
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 July 2016
E-mail logs to: do1npf@darc.de
Mail logs to: Peter Frank, DO1NPF, Postfach 11 19, 90515 Altdorf, Germany
Find rules at:
http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona/teilnahmebedingungen/

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party
00:01 UTC 4 July to 24:00 UTC 10 July
Mode: CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, FM, AM
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Individual; Club; QRP
Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 25 July 2016
E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org
Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA
Find rules at: http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/Spirit.pdf

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 4 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 July 2016

Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml

Next Week's Contests

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 4 July to 24:00 UTC 10 July
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 July
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 July
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW), 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 – 21:00 UTC 7 July (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 8 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 July
FISTS Summer Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 July
IARU HF World Championship, 12:00 UTC 9 July to 12:00 UTC 10 July
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 9 July to 24:00 UTC 10 July
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush, 20:00 – 21:59 UTC 10 July

VHF Happenings

India launches amateur radio satellites

On 22 June, the Indian Space Agency ISRO successfully launched several satellites carrying amateur radio payloads. The CSAT Swayam satellite was one of those launched. The 1U CubeSat carries a digital store and forward messaging system for use by the amateur radio community.

Rupesh Lad, VU2LRD/VU2COE, from the College of Engineering Pune CSAT Team says, *"We are eagerly waiting for your reception report of CW Morse Beacon at 437.025 MHz. You can also get the decoded Beacon Data by entering beacon in Swayam Beacon Decoder available on our website."*

The post launch TLEs for tracking the satellite are at http://www.coep.org.in/csat
Download the COEP Swayam Leaflet PDF
https://ukamsat.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/coep-swayam-summary.pdf
Frequencies of other satellites on the launch
https://amsat-uk.org/2016/05/25/amateur-satellite-launch-from-india/

New Zealand radio amateurs request 222 - 223 MHz

In a letter to the Radio Spectrum Management Policy and Planning manager, the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) request an amateur radio allocation at 222 - 223 MHz.

The letter says, "N*ZART is always on the lookout for spectrum that has different characteristics from that to which we already have access. The 174 to 230 MHz band clearly fits in*

this category – having characteristics quite different from the two adjacent (144 MHz and 430 MHz) amateur bands.

We are therefore requesting that a small allocation (222 – 223 MHz) be made to the NZ Amateurs to allow them to further both the self-training and technical investigations purposes of the Service.

In requesting this allocation be made to Amateur Radio, we are not seeking to exclude any other users from the band – in our view (and that of others) there is sufficient spectrum available in the band to satisfy all those seeking an allocation – including setting aside some bandwidth for applications (like the Internet of Things) that are not well defined at present."

UAE Amateur Radio satellite

The United Arab Emirates newspaper, The National, reports on the Nayif-1 spacecraft developed by Emirati students from the American University of Sharjah in partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre.

Nayif-1 carries a 435/145 MHz transponder (FUNcube-5) for amateur radio SSB/CW communications. It is expected to launch along with other amateur radio satellites such as Fox-1C and Fox-1D on a SpaceX rocket between September and November 2016.

The National reports that Yousuf Al Shaibani, director general of The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, said the satellite's development was a testament to its commitment to develop Emirati talent.

"There is no doubt that the field of satellite design and manufacturing is a new industry to UAE universities and students," Mr Al Shaibani said.

"The Emirati students possess the skills and capabilities to design and build a CubeSat as a result of a knowledge-transfer strategy and cooperation between academic and professional institutions that are launching real space projects, enabling students to see the product of their work as a reality in space."

The satellite is about 10 cubic centimetres and weighs about 1 kilogram. One of its most notable features is that it is programmed to transfer messages in Arabic.

"This is a great achievement and a source of pride for all of us," said Dr Bjorn Kjerfve, chancellor of American University of Sharjah.

Read the full story at www.thenational.ae/uae/science/first-satellite-developed-by-emirati-students-ready-for-launching

Nayif-1 CubeSat https://amsat-uk.org/satellites/communications/nayif-1/

Africa DX

Burkina Faso, XT. Hermann, DL2NUD, will be active as XT2AFT from Burkina Faso between 14 and 24 October. Activity will be on 144, 432, 1 296 and 2 320 MHz on EME. QSL via his home call sign.

This Week's Contests

Next Week's Contests

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter